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### The Ante Rises Over Radio Free Europe

On May 8, Bavarian state police showed up at the headquarters of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty in Munich and arrested a German employee on charges of spying for the Romanian intelligence service.

What was particularly shocking was that the suspected espionage agent, Klara Baltes, was the personal secretary of the central news division director of the U.S. government-owned radio stations. She had been working at RFE since 1952.

"We have been told by authorities," a radio official wrote to his superiors in Washington, "that she is accused of having provided reports on the radios to the Romanians for the past 20 years or so." The woman's husband was also arrested as a spy.

Meanwhile, Emil Georgescu, a supervising program editor, has complained that he was the target of physical attacks and death threats instigated by the Romanian secret police. Munich authorities are investigating his charges.

These episodes are only the most dramatic of the troubles recounted by RFE-RL officials in "strictly confidential" memos seen by my asso-

ciate. Indy Badhwar. They indicate that serious problems continue to plague the stations, which have the vital mission of broadcasting news and commentary to Eastern Europeans to counteract the Orwellian output of their communist governments' tightly controlled media.

I've already reported on problems ranging from suspected sabotage to administrative incompetence and embarrassing blunders, like broadcasting the wrong program to the wrong country at the wrong time — in the wrong language.

Here are some of the latest foul-ups:

- The RFE-RL transmitter in Pals, Spain, is "inefficient and becoming difficult to maintain," said one memo. Insiders say the real problem is not technical but political — trying to persuade a reluctant Spanish government to sign a long-term agreement on use of its facilities.

- A plan to set up eight 250-kilowatt transmitters in either Pakistan or the Sinai to serve Central Asia has run into opposition from the Pakistani and Israeli governments.

- The transmitter complex in Gloria, Portugal — our biggest and most effective — is in drastic need of modernization. Eleven new 250-kilowatt transmitters and antennas are scheduled to be installed there, but three of the transmitters have

been held up by Portuguese customs officials without explanation.

- Last summer, the antenna on a new 150-kilowatt medium-wave transmitter in Holzkirchen, Germany, fell down. It is RFE-RL's only medium-wave transmitter serving Poland after dark and Czechoslovakia during daylight hours.

The radio stations' difficulties couldn't come at a worse time. Broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty could be a crucial weapon in the Polish people's gallant struggle against the Soviet behemoth.

Rep. Jim Courter (R-N.J.), a member of the Armed Services Committee, raised this point in a private note to President Reagan urging that the administration increase funding for the two radio stations. RFE-RL should be upgraded, he wrote, "because such broadcasting provides vital, truthful information to the captive populations of U.S.S.R. and East Europe about developments in their countries and the likelihood of a Soviet invasion, and circumstances surrounding an actual invasion."

Denied the broadcasts, the Poles will be hampered in their efforts to coordinate opposition. Courter wrote, and the Russians, "who rely for the success of their operations upon the suppression of the truth, will be able to act with greater impunity."